Wastage of Public Funds on Roads in the Capital

1544. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption; nepotism and waste of public funds on roads in the capital ;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the major roads under construction, heavy embankments, footpaths etc. constructed so far are to be destroyed and shifted within a few months; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a High Powered Committee for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Constitutionally (as per the National Highways Act, 1956), this Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the country and rendering technical advice to the Union Territories without legislature. All other roads are essentially the responsibility of the respective State Govts/Union Territories. Road construction activities in the Capital are mainly handled by Public Works Department Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Committee, and Delhi Cantonment Board. These agencies have intimated that cases of corruption, nepotism and wastage of public funds on roads have not been brought to their notice. They have further stated that the construction work is done as per the approved specifications. The major roads under construction, heavy embankments, footpaths etc. constructed so far, are not likely to be destroyed and shifted in the near future. Demolition and shifting of the footpaths etc. does take place due to heavy rains and when necessitated by the provision of utility services like telephone, electric cables etc.

(c) No, Sir.

Auto Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

1545. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of sub-divisional headquarters in the State of Orissa which has not got the facility of Auto Telephone Exchange so far ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to convert any Manual Exchange into an Auto Exchange in the current financial year ;

(c) whether it is a fact that new equipments meant for Jagatsingpur Auto Exchange has been lying idle for last one year at Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANE SHWAR MISHRA) : (a) There are 10 sub-divisional headquarters in the State of Orissa which do not have Auto Telephone Exchange facility.

(b) Yes Sir, but the implementation is subject to availability of equipment in time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Visit by foreign war-ships carrying nuclear weapons on board to Indian Ports

1546. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of